

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, October 30. 1708.

Review. **W**ELL, My Lunatick, what is it you have to say now?

Mad Man. About what, pray? I have so many Things to speak of, that you must tell me what to begin upon first.

Rev. Nay, begin where you left off, at the Siege of Liffie; You said, you had something to say about the Engineers, you began with an O, the Engineers.

M. Truly, I have a great Deal of Reason to cry out about the Engineers, for I think, we have given them a great Deal of foul Play.

Rev. How foul Play?

M. Why we have abused them, and called them *French Men*, and I know not what, and yet they are almost all kill'd.

Now I remember, when I had my Wits, and us'd to read Books, an old *Bedlamite* Author, of another Kind of War, has this Expression.

*That he that hangs or beats out's Brains,
The D——'s to him if he feigns.*

We were so sooner defeated in our Expectations, and the Siege began to go on heavily, but searching about to find out somebody to lay the Fault upon, we at last were forced to fall upon the poor Engineers.

Rev. Ay, ay, we would fain have laid it upon the Duke of M——gh; but it fell out very luckily, that Prince Eugene had the Command of the Siege; and some People

People did not care to lay any Blame upon Prince *Eugene*, because it would have spoiled a new and just projected Design of playing, The Credit of that Prince against the Duke of *Marlborough's*—Now they have curs'd their Fate over and over, that the Duke of *Marlborough* did not command the Siege; had HE been the Man, they had mauled him, and every Attack that did not succeed, had been his Neglect, and the whole Siege——

M. Well, well, this is another Case, I should have come to that another Time, and perhaps have told you, that the Duke of *Marlborough* was not the Proposer of this Siege; nay, that he oppos'd it, and would have made it a Feint only, and rather have besieg'd *Ipres*, as opening a Way to *Dunkirk*.—And this may some time unriddle a Point not yet thoroughly examin'd, viz, Who, and for what Reasons always put by the late Glorious King *William* from pushing at *Dunkirk*, as a Town which might require as much Difficulty to determine who should keep it, as it might to take it. But of all this in its Order.

Rev. Well, adjourn it then; will you come back to the Story of the Engineers, for I confess, I am out of Humour with them?

M. With them that are alive do you mean, or those that are dead?

Rev. I am out of Humour with those that did not do their Duty, and with those that did not understand their Duty.

M. Nay, then you ought not to be out of Humour at the Engineer at all; whether alive or dead. For first, that they have neglected their Duty, cannot be, for they are almost all kill'd; nay, and as I have been told, several of those unhappy Gentlemen so much resented the Reproaches cast upon them, that they run themselves into all Manner of Dangers to retrieve their Reputation, and convince the World both of their Honesty and Bravery; so that you cannot charge their Integrity from the Maxim mention'd in the Verses above; and if you would charge their Capacity, you must come upon them that employ'd them——

Rev. I think so too, and they deserve to be charged for sending insufficient People on such an Employ.

M. Well, who do you touch in this? Rev. All the Confederates, I distinguish no Body.

M. I deny that, you are partial to your own Country now.

Rev. Not I.

M. But you are; for I can produce you Authentick Certificates from the whole Army, that all the *English* Engineers at the Siege at *Lisle* were the most accurate and exquisite People in the whole Camp, and not one Engineer ever miscarry'd or misbehav'd; but the *Dutch*, *Germans*, or *French* Refugees.

Rev. I am very glad to hear that for the Honour of our Country; but are you very sure of it?

M. Very sure of it; I have my Vouchers in my Chamber at *Bedlam*.

Rev. Did all of them behave so well, say you?

M. Ay, all, every one of them.

Rev. How many are there of them?

M. How many do you think?

Rev. I cannot guess, perhaps Twenty or Thirty.

M. NOT ONE, Good Truth, to the immortal Honour of our Art-improving, Ingenuity-encouraging Age, not one *English* Engineer in the whole Army.

Rev. You are a great R...e; Could I think you had been jesting all this while, and not going to satyrize the Government?

M. Not I, neither is it a Satyr on the Government at all; for I'll undertake to prove, you not only have none abroad, but you have none at home, and the Government can never be reproach'd with not sending such Folks abroad, when they have none in the Nation; it is not for the Government to make Engineers, 'tis their Work to hire them, and they cannot hire what is not to be had.

Rev. That is very ill-natur'd upon us——

M. Not at all; for if you will put me to it, I'll prove, 1. No Man in his Sences would study and improve himself in that Knowledge to serve such a Nation as this is, when every Town he attacks that he cannot take, he is ruin'd Body, Purse and Reputation. 2. That this Nation has always abus'd such People, and condemn'd them; nay,

nay, I can shew you a Book wrote by the late Observator, to prove Engineers a useless Sort of People in England, Engines of Tyranny, and only a Sort of Collar-Makers to the Kingdom, to make Yokes to awe and oppress the People; and this Humour has quite rooted out the Race of these most useful People from among us, and now we see the Want of them, and are beholden to the King of France for those we have.

Rev. How beholden to him?

M. Nay, more; we are beholden to Persecution for them —

Rev. How so?

M. It's plain, if the King of France had not persecuted his Subjects, you had had very few Engineers in Europe, the most Part of the Princes of Europe being now supply'd by the Refugees of France, or such as they have brought up — But of this hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

IT has been with some Difficulty, that I have a long Time restrain'd doing the World Justice upon some of our News-writers, who, since our *Scandal Club* has been silent, are relapsed into their intolerable Blunders — Such as Advice from the Hague by the Way of Paris, and the like: But the following Letter I could not omit, in Justice to our English Tongue, and without any pointing at Persons; since I cannot but think the using and introducing foreign Terms of Art, or foreign Words into our Speech, while our Language labours under no Penury or Scarcity of Words, is an intolerable Grievance.

September 20.
1708.

SIR,

YOU have sometimes given your self the Diversion, and the Publick the Use, of correcting the Inconsistencies of our News-Writers in Matters of Fact; 'twill perhaps be no less acceptable to chastize them a little for the Sin of Affectation. One would think, that Papers, intended chiefly for publick Information at Home, should be writ with all the Plainness and Perspicuity, the Matters they treat of could bear; and when English Terms are fully expressive of the Subject, those Authors might dispense with themselves from substituting French in the room of them. We have had the most frequent Instances of the contrary in the Progress of the Siege of Lisle, and I believe, the Generality of our News-mongers would be oblig'd to you, if in your Miscellanea you would ask the Gazetteer,

(for I shall meddle with him only as the Standard of the rest) a few Questions on the following Articles.

In the Gazette of Thursday the 2d. Instant, he tells us from the Camp at Pretin, That the Enemy were continuing their March towards the Overture into the Plains of Lisle; and a little further, that General Fagel commanded a Corps in Flanders: I omit his informing me in the same Article, that the Enemy would attempt the Relief of the Siege, as a downright Blunder; and his French Names for those Parts of modern Fortification, which owe their Rise or Improvement to that Nation, I dispute not, but would fain know, whether the Opening instead of the Overture into the Plains of Lisle, and a Body instead of a Corps in Flanders, would not have express'd our Author's Account as well, and been as easily understood on this side the Water —

Further, in the Gazette of Thursday the 9th. the Article from Brussels, we are told, that Lieutenant General Pascale return'd thither, having left a Convoy of Cannon and Ammunition near Audenarde, under an Escorte of 30 Squadrons and 5 Battalions, commanded by the Earl of Albemarle — And Monday the 13th. from the Camp at Sanglia, we find him guilty of the same Elegancy — In the same Gazette, we are also told from the Camp before Lisle, that Dispositions were made for a Descent into the Fosses of the two Counter-guards; and so fond he is of his Fosses and Corps, that he uses the Former at least half a score times in the same, and the Gazette of

of Thursday last, and the Latter, as frequently in the Course of his Papers. Now bating the Impropriety (so say no worse) of putting one Convoy under the Convoy of another, (for Escorte and Convoy are thought to be Words signifying the same thing), It would puzzle a Body to comprehend, for what good Reason our old Servant, Convoy or Guard, should be in danger of being laid aside to introduce this upstart Escorte, especially since originally of the same Country too; and why our Ditches and Bodges should be put out of Play, to make way for these same Flocks and Corps, that are neither, for Sense or Sound, a whit the better qualify'd to serve us—While so staunch an Author as the Gazetteer entertains us at this rate, 'tis no wonder our News writers take the same Liberties in the Accounts they give us of the Enemies making Cupures behind the Breach, and how many Toises we are advanc'd towards it, and the like; both which important Terms might have been as significantly express'd by Cuts or Trenches, and Fathoms in plain English. 'Twould be worse than trifling to trouble you with further Instances of this Kind, the few I have offer'd are more than sufficient to show those concern'd their Folly in creating the Publick at this rate; and in censuring those Innovations, I am confident, wish you, I shall not be thought guilty of opposing the Improvement of our Mother-Tongue, by naturalizing more significant Words in other Languages; those that I have mention'd being, both in themselves, and the Manner of introducing them, very wide of that Mark, and in good Earnest only a ridiculous Affectation—I am,

Sir,

Your humble Servant,

Phil. Br.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

The CREDITORS of King CHARLES, King JAMES, and King WILLIAM,

HAVING found out and discover'd sufficient Funds for Securing a Perpetual Interest for four Millions, without Burthening the People, Clogging the Trade, or Impairing

the Revenue—— And all their Debts not amounting near to that Sum——The more to strengthen their Interest therein, and to find the greater Favour with the Parliament, they have agreed, That the Army, and Transport-Debenters, and other Parliament Debts may, if they please, joyn with them; and it is not expected, that any great Debts shall pay any Charge for the carrying on this Aff, until it be happily accomplish'd, and no more will be expected afterwards, than what shall be readily agreed to before-hand, neither shall any be binder'd from taking any other Measures, if there should be but a Suspicion of Mismanagement, which is impossible, if they unite their Interest——

They continue to meet by the Parliament-Stairs in Old-Pallace-Yard; There is a Note on the Door, where daily Attendance is given from Ten in the Morning until Night—— If Any are not apprehensive of the Certainty of the Success, they may come and have full Satisfaction, that they may have their Money if they will.

These are to give Notice,

THAT MARY KIRLEUS, the Widow of JOHN KIRLEUS, Son of Dr. THO. KIRLEUS, a Sworn-Physician, in Ordinary to King Charles II. Sells (rightly prepar'd) his Famous Drink and Pills; experienc'd above 50 Years (by an uncommon Method) to cure all Ulcers, Sores, Scabs, Itch, Scurf, Scourvies, Leprosies, Ruining of the Reins, and the most inveterate VENEREAL Disease, with all its attending Symptoms, without Fluxing, Confinement, or destructive Mercurial Preparations: These incomparable Medicines need no Words to express their Virtues; the many miserable Ones that have been happily cured, after given over by others, sufficiently recommend them as the most Sovereign Remedy in the World against all such Malignities: She cures many after Fluxing, and in Compassion to the Distressed, will deal according to the Patient's ability. The Drink is s. the Quart, the Pill 1 s. the Box with Directions and Advice Gratis. NOTE, The Patient may be effectually cur'd by sending his Grief in Writing.

††† He lives at the Golden-Ball in Hand-Court, over against great Turnstile in Holborn.